

America Claims an Empire

The Spanish-American War

Global Competition

- U.S. long interested in Cuba; wants to buy Cuba from Spain
- During 1868-1878 war for independence, American sympathies with Cuba
- 1886 abolition of slavery leads to U.S. investment in sugar cane



The Second War for Independence

- José Martí—poet, journalist—launches second revolution in 1865
- Guerrilla campaign destroys American-owned sugar mills, plantations
- U.S. public opinion split:
 - business wants to support Spain, others favor Cuba



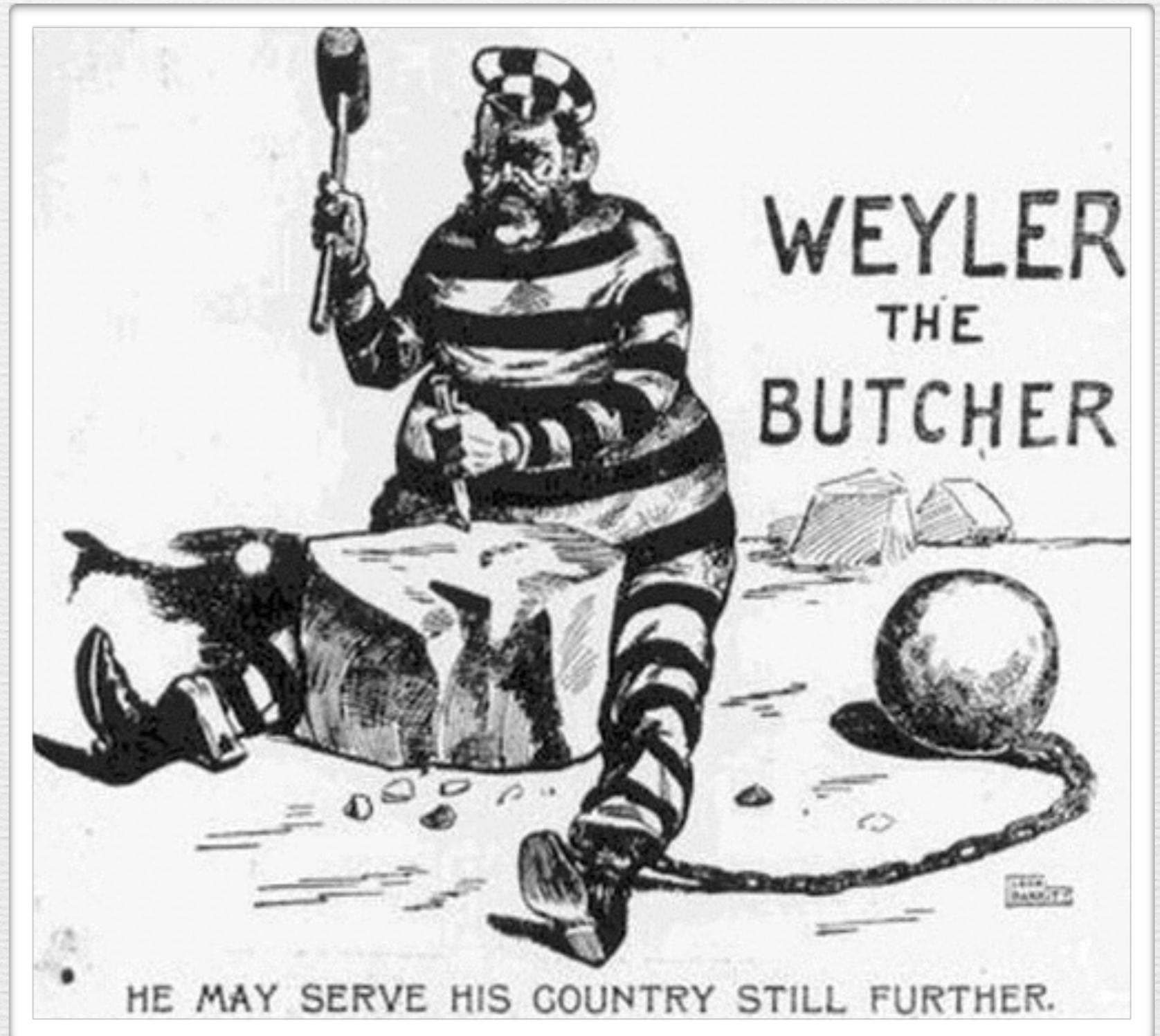
Spain Takes Action

- 1896, General Valeriano Weyler sent to Cuba to restore order
- Puts about 300,000 Cubans in concentration camps

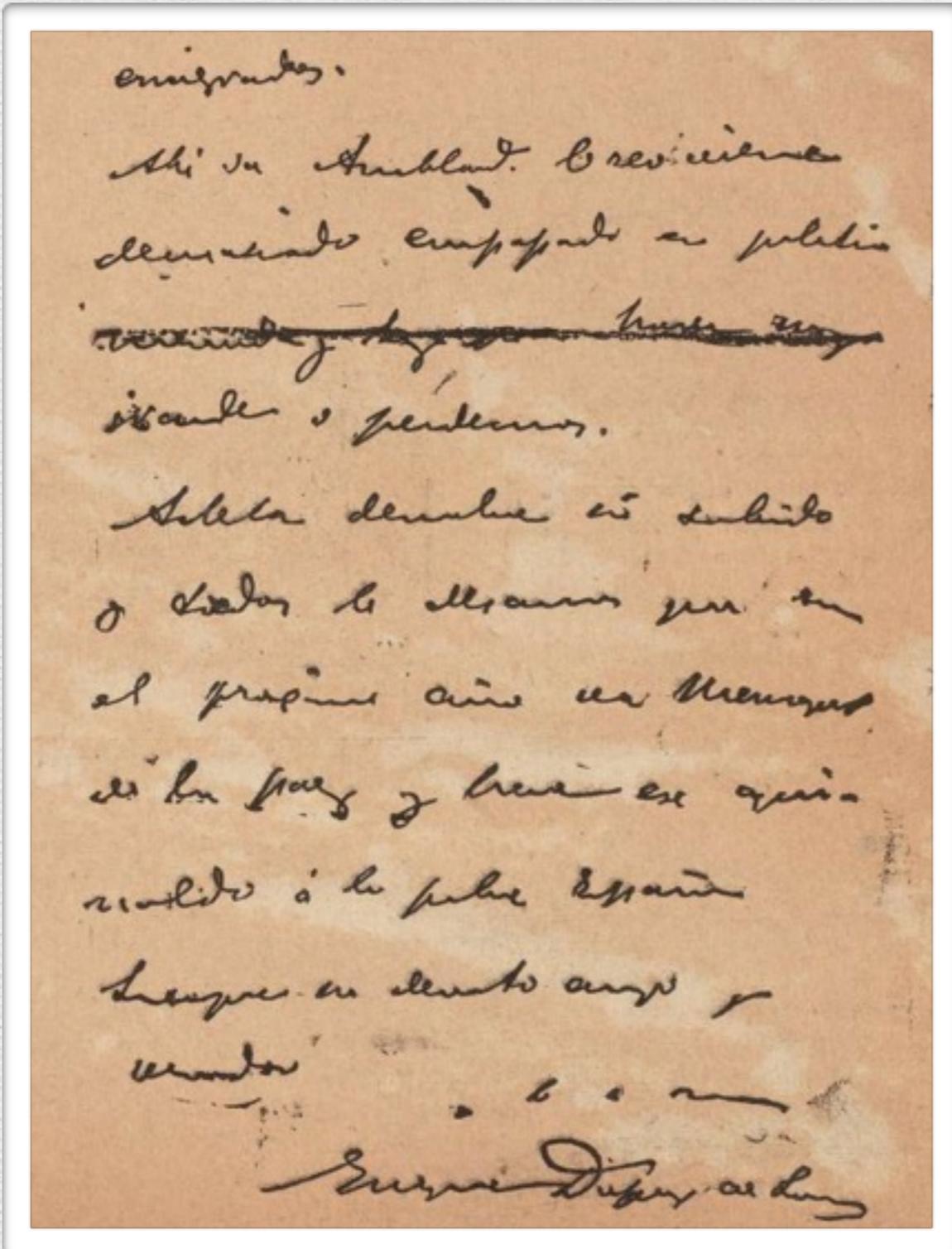


Headline Wars

- Newspapers exploit Weyler's actions in circulation war
- **Yellow journalism**—sensational writing used to lure, enrage readers



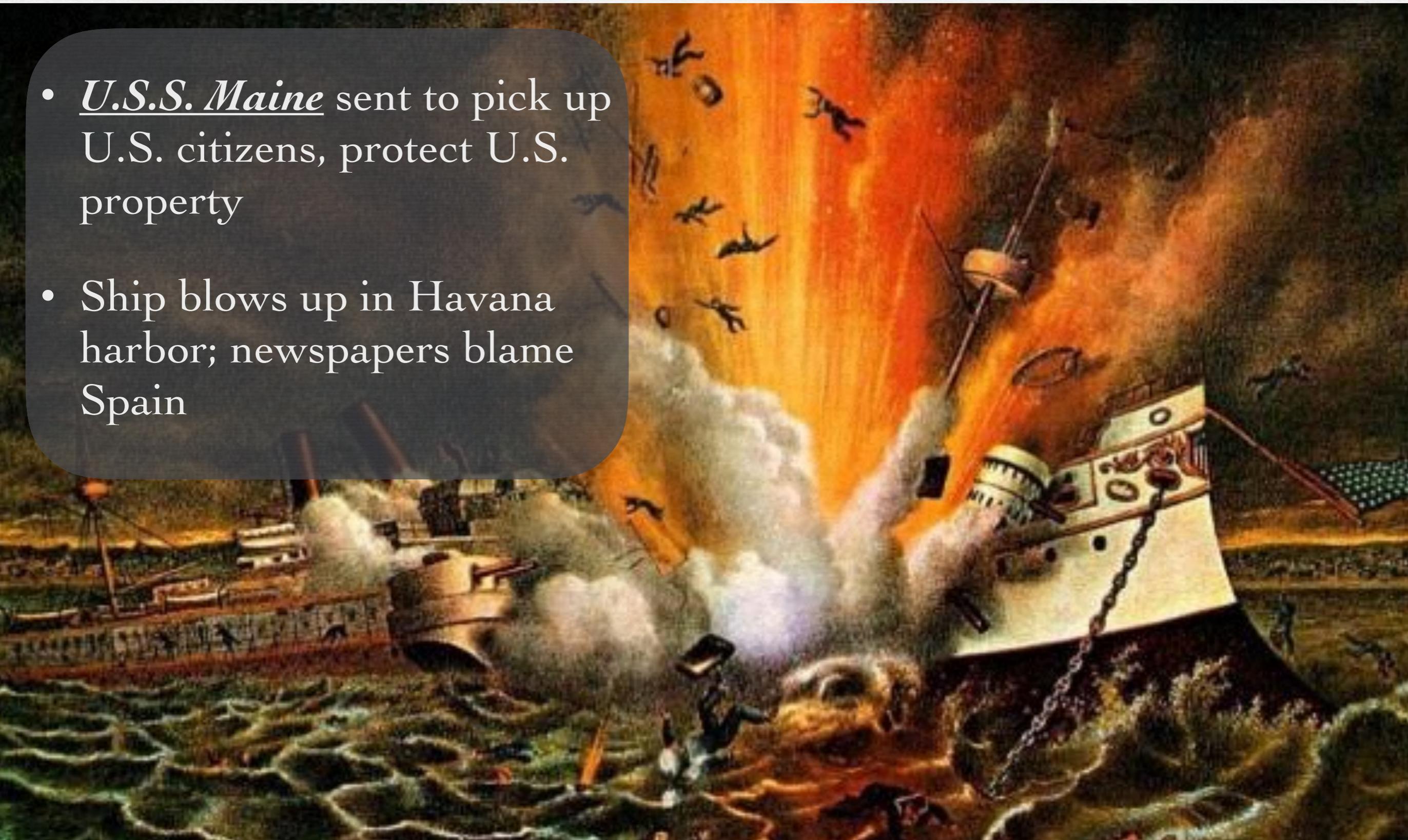
The de Lôme Letter

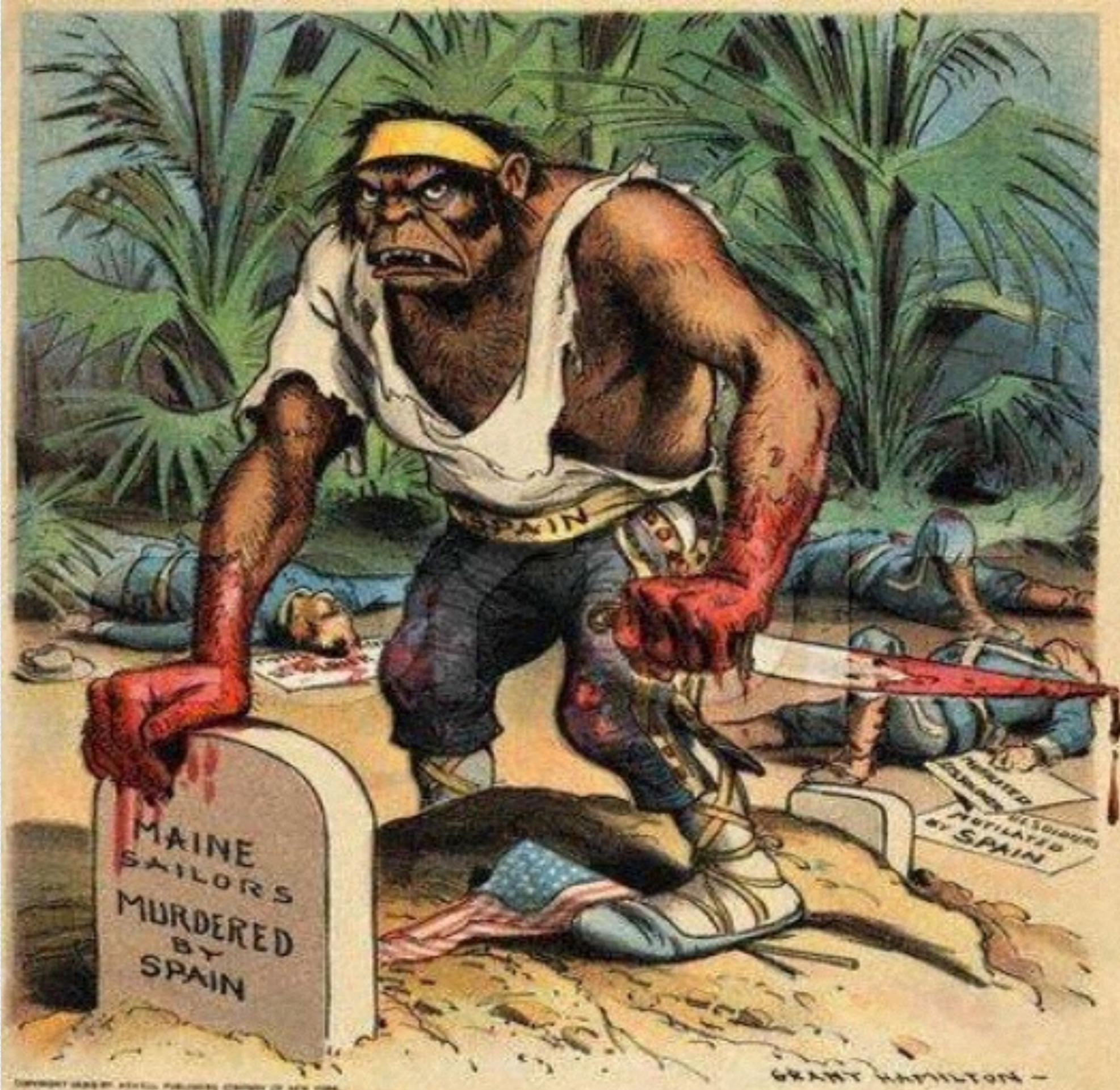


- Headlines increase American sympathy for independent Cuba
- McKinley wants to avoid war, tries diplomacy to resolve crisis
- Private letter by Spanish minister Enrique Dupuy de Lôme published
 - calls McKinley weak, swayed by public
- Spain apologizes, de Lôme resigns; American public angry

The *U.S.S. Maine* Explodes

- *U.S.S. Maine* sent to pick up U.S. citizens, protect U.S. property
- Ship blows up in Havana harbor; newspapers blame Spain



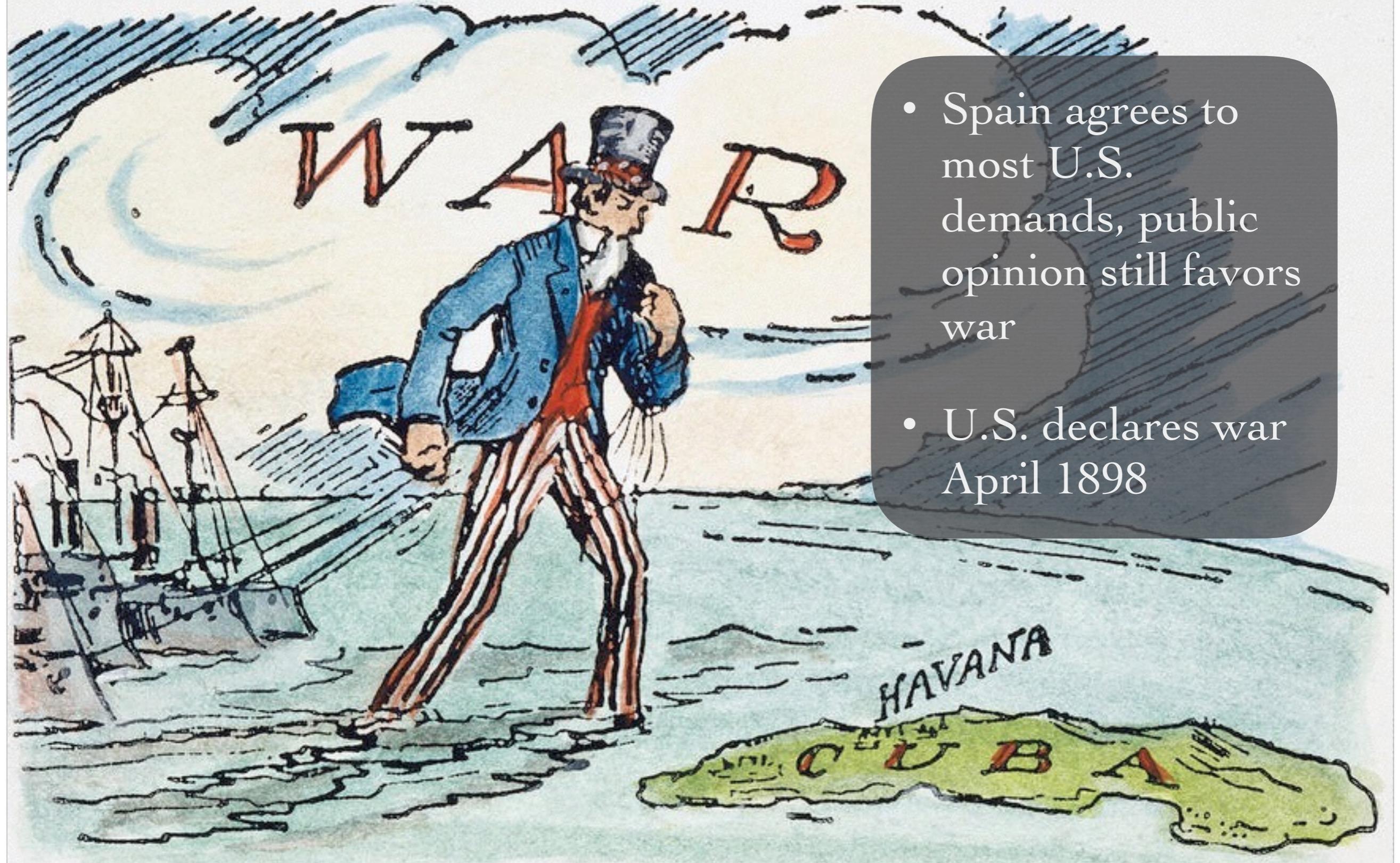


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GRANT HAMILTON -
The New York Herald Tribune

THE SPANISH BRUTE
ADDS MUTILATION TO MURDER.

The U.S. Declares War

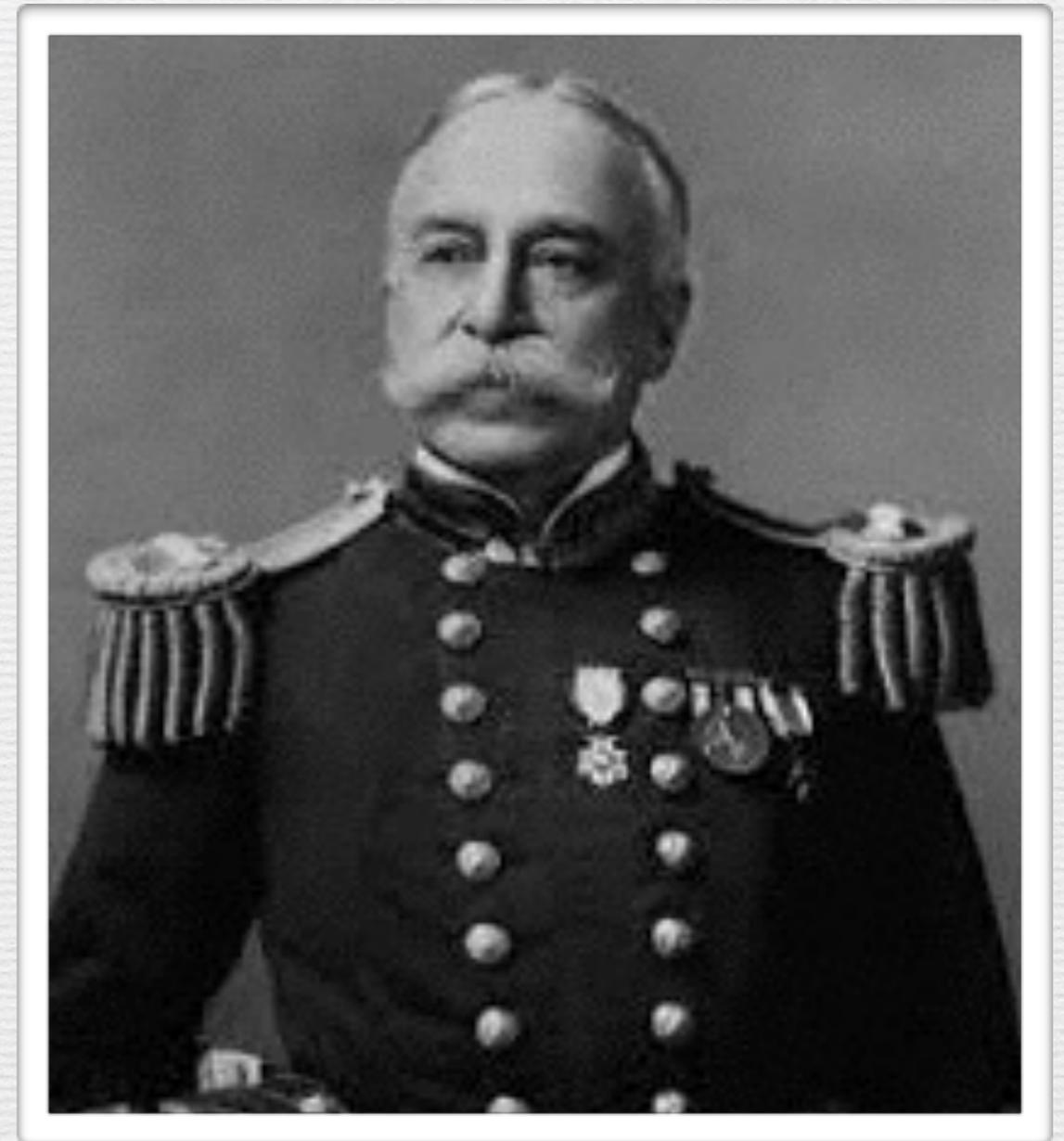


- Spain agrees to most U.S. demands, public opinion still favors war
- U.S. declares war April 1898

WAR DECLARED WITH SPAIN - 1898

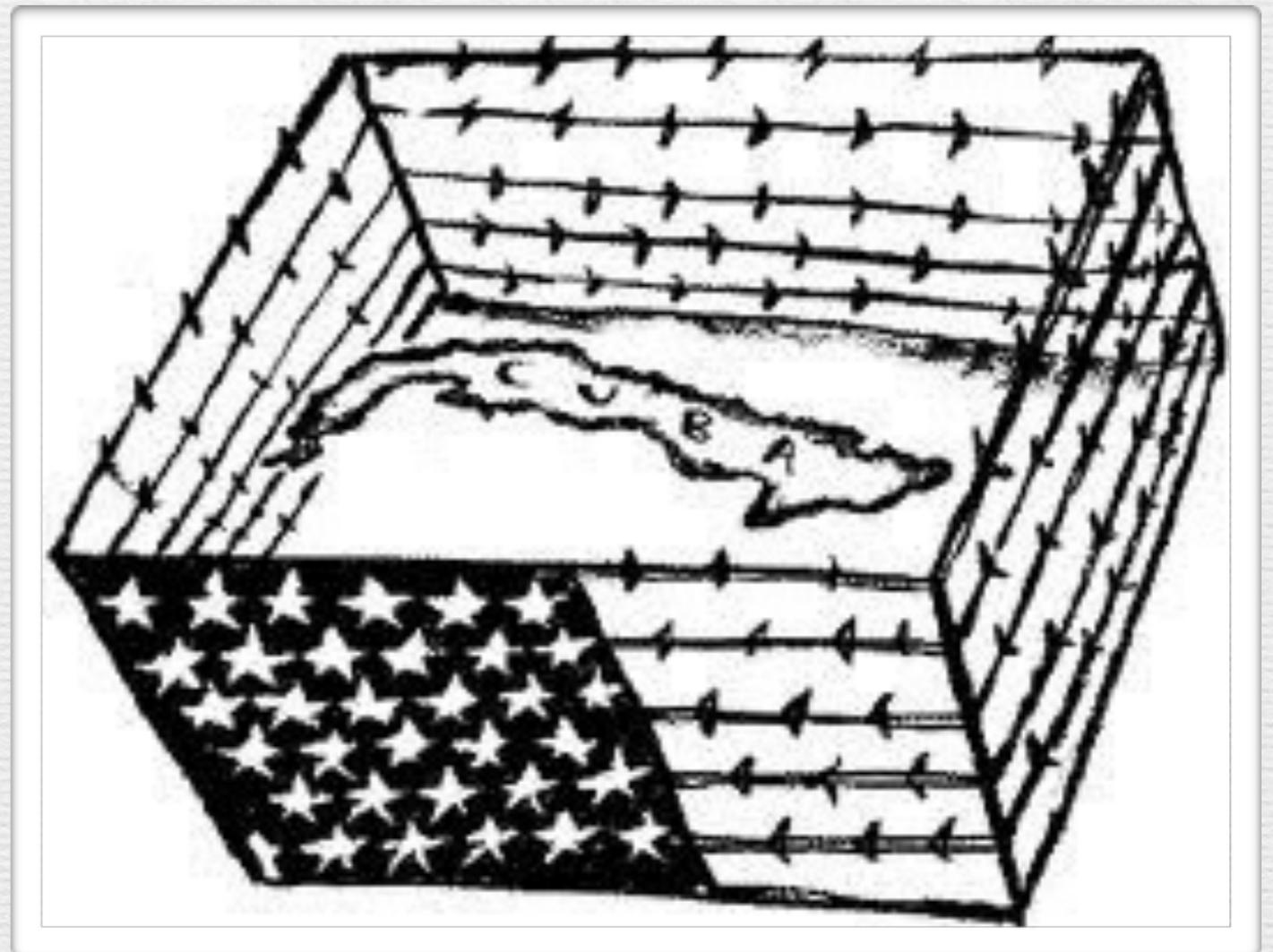
The War in the Philippines

- First battle with Spain occurs in Spanish colony of the Philippines
- Commodore George Dewey destroys Spanish fleet in Manila Harbor
- Filipinos, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, support Dewey
- August 1898, Spanish troops in Manila surrender to U.S.



The War in the Caribbean

- U.S. blockades Cuba; Spanish fleet in Santiago de Cuba harbor
- Unlike navy, U.S. army has small professional force, many volunteers –volunteers ill-prepared, ill-supplied



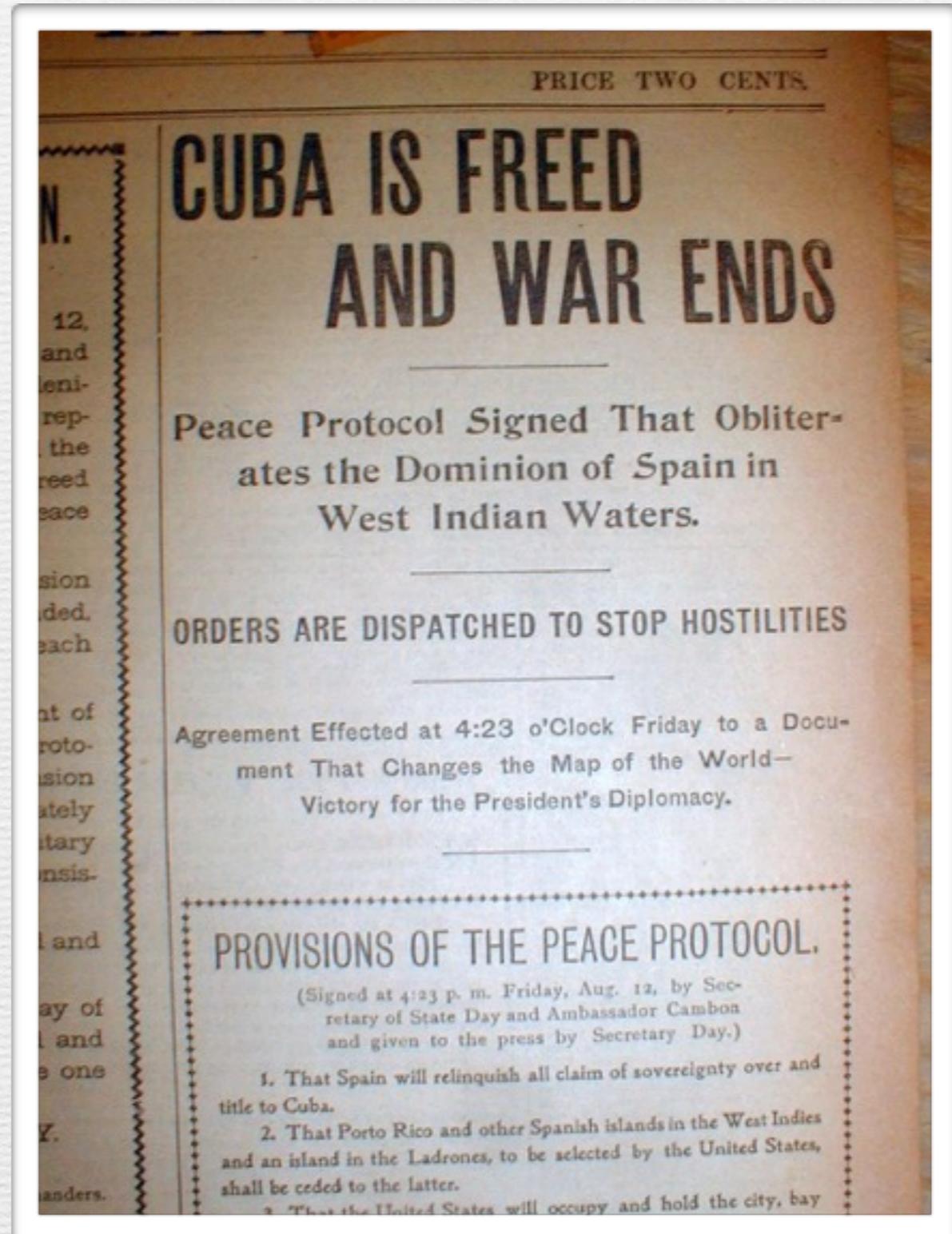
Rough Riders

- Rough Riders—Leonard Wood, Theodore Roosevelt lead volunteer cavalry
- Roosevelt declared hero of attack on strategic San Juan Hill
- Spanish fleet tries to escape blockade, is destroyed in naval battle
- U.S. troops invade Puerto Rico soon after



Treaty of Paris

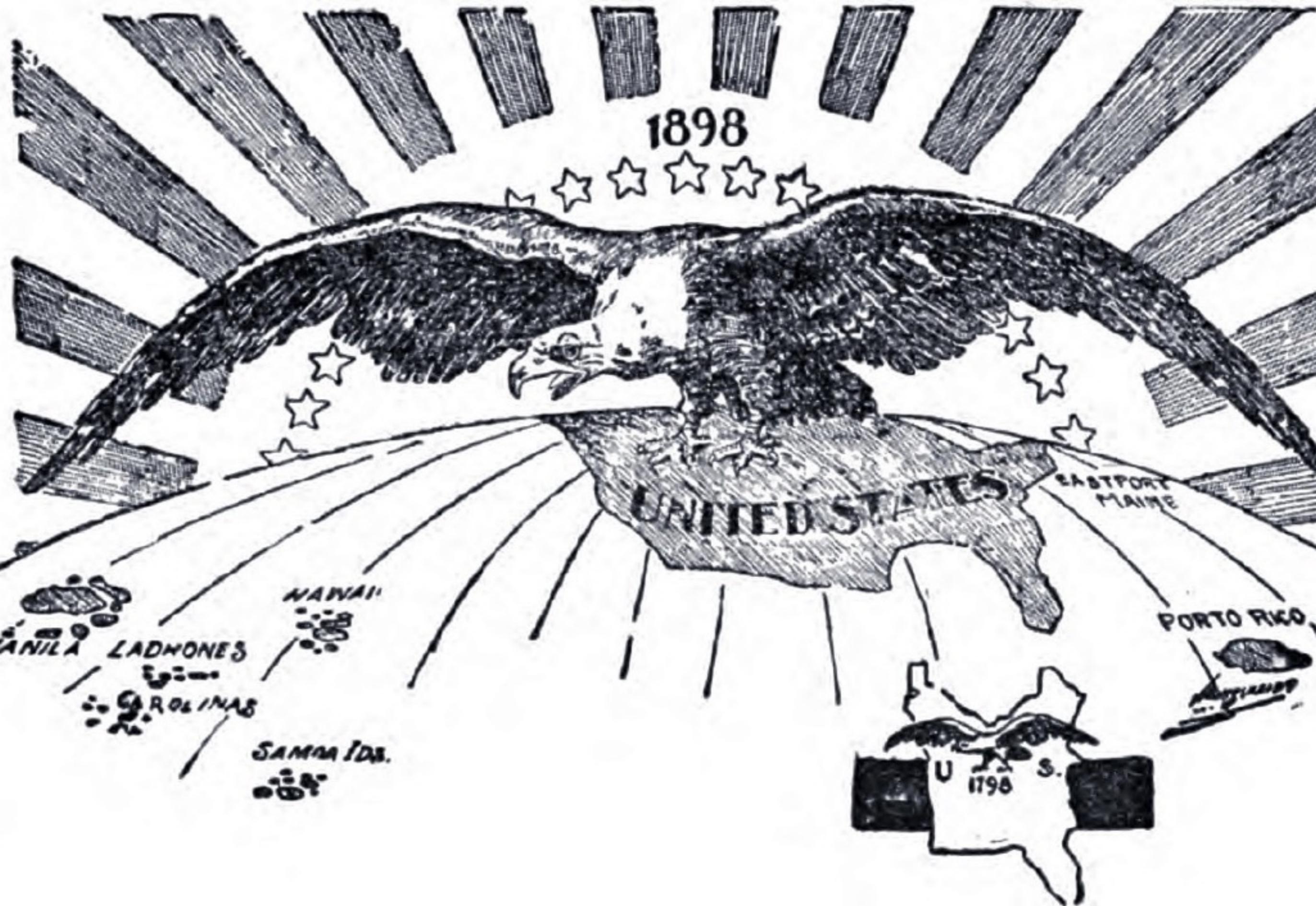
- Spain, U.S. sign armistice August 1898; meet in Paris to make treaty
- Spain frees Cuba; hands Guam, Puerto Rico to U.S.; sells Philippines



Debate over the Treaty



- Treaty of Paris touches off great debate over imperialism
- McKinley tries to justify annexation of Philippines on moral grounds
- Opponents give political, moral, economic arguments against



Ten thousand miles from tip to tip.—Philadelphia Press.